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COUNTY ESTIMATES

Winter Wheat – 2002 Crop

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Colorado's total winter wheat crop produced in 2002 totaled just 36.3 million bushels, down 45 percent from the previous year and the smallest winter wheat crop since 1967. Extreme drought and hot temperatures during the entire growing season forced dryland farmers to abandon almost 700,000 acres intended for grain and reduced production on the 1.65 million acres that were harvested. Many producers, especially in the southeastern area of the state, abandoned fields early leading to the smallest harvested area since 1965. Average yield per acre, at 22.0 bushels, was 11 bushels below last year's 33.0 bushels and the lowest since 1977. The planted acreage of 2.35 million acres was unchanged from the previous year.

Washington County remained the top winter wheat producing county in Colorado in 2002 even though the county's production of 5,040,000 bushels was down 41 percent from the 8,597,000 bushels produced in 2001. Acreage planted for the 2002 crop was down 15 percent from the previous year to 238,000 acres and ranked second in planted acres in the state. However, the 227,000 acres harvested in 2002 were the highest harvested acreage of winter wheat in the state even though they represented a 14 percent decline in acres from the previous year. The average yield in 2002, at 22.0 bushels per acre, was 10.5 bushels below the 2001 yield.

Kit Carson County kept a second place ranking in winter wheat production by producing 3,810,000 bushels in 2002, down 48 percent from the 2001 output of 7,345,000 bushels. The 195,000 acres harvested in 2002 were down 19 percent from the previous year, and the average yield of 19.5 bushels per acre was 11.0 bushels per acre below the 2001 average of 30.5 bushels per acre. Kit Carson County, with 240,000 acres planted, had the largest planted area of winter wheat in the state for the 2002 crop.

Adams County moved up from a fifth place ranking in 2001 to become the third largest winter wheat producing county in 2002 with a total output of 3,270,000 bushels. The latest crop was 25 percent below the previous year. Producers harvested 134,000 acres in 2002 compared with 134,400 acres a year earlier. The county's average yield of 24.5 bushels per acre was 8.0 bushels lower than the previous year.

Yuma County had the fourth largest winter wheat crop in the state with a total output of 3,230,000 bushels. The 2002 crop was 40 percent smaller than the 5,368,000 bushels produced the previous year which was the third largest in the state then. Producers planted 133,000 acres of winter wheat for the 2002 crop, down 5 percent from the previous year. The harvested area of 120,000 acres was 12 percent below the 136,700 acres harvested for the 2001 crop. The average yield of 27.0 bushels per acre on the 2002 crop dropped 12.5 bushels per acre from the previous year.

Weld County completed the list of the top five winter wheat producing counties in the state in 2002 by producing 3,065,000 bushels. The latest crop was 18 percent below the 2001 crop of 3,735,000 bushels which ranked eighth in the state for 2001. Producers planted 35 percent more acres for the 2002 crop but the 130,000 acres harvested were only 15 percent above the 113,300 acres harvested in 2001. The average yield of 23.5 bushels per acre in 2002 was 9.5 bushels below the 33.0 bushel average realized from the 2001 crop.

The top five producing counties accounted for 18,415,000 bushels in 2002, representing 51 percent of the state's total output of 36,300,000 bushels. The next five leading counties had a combined output of 10,718,000 bushels, bringing the total for the top ten counties to 29,133,000 bushels or 80 percent of the state total. The sixth through the tenth counties with the percent change from the previous year and the 2002 production for each county were as follows: **Logan County**, down 38 percent to 2,680,000 bushels; **Sedgwick County**, down 3 percent to 2,310,000 bushels; **Lincoln County**, down 42 percent to 2,053,000 bushels; **Phillips County**, down 56 percent to 1,905,000 bushels; and **Arapahoe County**, up 11 percent to 1,770,000 bushels as an increase in the acreage harvested more than offset a lower average yield per acre.

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Winter Wheat: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2002										
County and District	Acreage planted	Irrigated			Non-Irrigated			Total		
		Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion
	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.
Chaffee . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clear Creek .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gilpin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnison . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jackson . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lake . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moffat	12,900	...	...	...	12,000	14.5	176,000	12,000	14.5	176,000
Park . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitkin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Blanco .	600	...	...	...	500	16.0	8,000	500	16.0	8,000
Routt	6,000	...	...	...	5,500	17.5	96,000	5,500	17.5	96,000
Summit . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teller . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NW & Mountain	19,500	...	...	...	18,000	15.5	280,000	18,000	15.5	280,000
Boulder	7,000	1,000	35.0	35,000	2,000	20.0	40,000	3,000	25.0	75,000
Jefferson . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larimer	7,500	1,200	62.5	75,000	3,800	19.5	75,000	5,000	30.0	150,000
Logan	158,000	4,000	45.0	180,000	136,000	18.5	2,500,000	140,000	19.0	2,680,000
Morgan	65,500	11,300	56.0	635,000	48,700	22.0	1,060,000	60,000	28.5	1,695,000
Sedgwick . .	85,500	3,000	70.0	210,000	79,000	26.5	2,100,000	82,000	28.0	2,310,000
Weld	167,000	11,500	41.5	475,000	118,500	22.0	2,590,000	130,000	23.5	3,065,000
Northeast	490,500	32,000	50.5	1,610,000	388,000	21.5	8,365,000	420,000	24.0	9,975,000
Adams	155,000	2,500	48.0	120,000	131,500	24.0	3,150,000	134,000	24.5	3,270,000
Arapahoe . . .	96,200	...	...	...	85,000	21.0	1,770,000	85,000	21.0	1,770,000
Cheyenne . .	148,000	3,000	34.0	102,000	57,000	12.0	680,000	60,000	13.0	782,000
Denver . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas	2,200	...	...	...	2,000	17.5	35,000	2,000	17.5	35,000
Elbert	27,500	...	...	...	24,500	19.0	460,000	24,500	19.0	460,000
El Paso	2,100	...	...	...	500	10.0	5,000	500	10.0	5,000
Kiowa	207,000	1,000	20.0	20,000	41,000	8.0	330,000	42,000	8.5	350,000
Kit Carson . .	240,000	25,000	30.0	750,000	170,000	18.0	3,060,000	195,000	19.5	3,810,000
Lincoln	108,000	500	26.0	13,000	93,500	22.0	2,040,000	94,000	22.0	2,053,000
Phillips	108,000	2,600	67.5	175,000	87,400	20.0	1,730,000	90,000	21.0	1,905,000
Washington .	238,000	3,000	60.0	180,000	224,000	21.5	4,860,000	227,000	22.0	5,040,000
Yuma	133,000	11,400	53.5	610,000	108,600	24.0	2,620,000	120,000	27.0	3,230,000
East Central	1,465,000	49,000	40.0	1,970,000	1,025,000	20.0	20,740,000	1,074,000	21.0	22,710,000
Archuleta . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delta	200	200	85.0	17,000	...	...	...	200	85.0	17,000
Dolores	15,500	...	...	...	10,800	14.0	150,000	10,800	14.0	150,000
Garfield	2,000	...	...	...	800	14.0	11,000	800	14.0	11,000
Hinsdale . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
La Plata	1,500	...	...	...	300	6.5	2,000	300	6.5	2,000
Mesa	2,800	2,500	88.0	220,000	...	...	...	2,500	88.0	220,000
Montezuma .	7,000	800	69.0	55,000	1,000	9.0	9,000	1,800	35.5	64,000
Montrose . . .	900	500	76.0	38,000	...	...	...	500	76.0	38,000
Ouray . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Juan . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel .	1,100	...	...	...	1,100	30.0	33,000	1,100	30.0	33,000
Southwest	31,000	4,000	82.5	330,000	14,000	14.5	205,000	18,000	29.5	535,000
Alamosa . . .	1,800	1,200	70.0	84,000	...	...	...	1,200	70.0	84,000
Conejos	300	300	86.5	26,000	...	...	...	300	86.5	26,000
Costilla	700	500	66.0	33,000	...	...	...	500	66.0	33,000
Mineral . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Grande .	600	500	68.0	34,000	...	...	...	500	68.0	34,000
Saguache . . .	600	500	66.0	33,000	...	...	...	500	66.0	33,000
San Luis Valley	4,000	3,000	70.0	210,000	...	...	...	3,000	70.0	210,000
Baca	192,000	24,000	33.0	790,000	26,000	11.0	281,000	50,000	21.5	1,071,000
Bent	6,800	2,400	37.5	90,000	2,100	8.0	17,000	4,500	24.0	107,000
Crowley . . .	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Custer . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fremont . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huerfano . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Las Animas .	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Otero	4,000	2,500	50.0	125,000	...	...	...	2,500	50.0	125,000
Prowers	128,000	12,600	51.5	650,000	46,900	13.0	612,000	59,500	21.0	1,262,000
Pueblo	3,200	500	50.0	25,000	...	...	...	500	50.0	25,000
Southeast	340,000	42,000	40.0	1,680,000	75,000	12.0	910,000	117,000	22.0	2,590,000
State Total	2,350,000	130,000	44.5	5,800,000	1,520,000	20.0	30,500,000	1,650,000	22.0	36,300,000